

## **Research Activity Panel Meeting Summary**

### **Gregor M. Cailliet, MLML, RAP Chair**

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#### **MAY 1999 MEETING**

Host: Rapid Environmental Assessment Lab (REAL), Naval Postgraduate School

Friday May 14, 1999; 09:00 - 12:00

Attendance: 12 RAP members and 4 guests

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

##### **Institutional Update: Plans for Del Monte Beach Facility (B. Garwood, T. Stanton)**

- Trends at NPS: fewer students with down sizing of military, but more research.
- Faculty of 10 teaching and 20 researchers for total of 30.
- Developing new programs for education in the field and on ships.
- Innovative Coastal Ocean Observatory (ICON) and other monitoring projects.
- Rapid Environmental Assessment Laboratory (REAL): Tim Stanton is leading this effort, which is a cabled observatory, with surf camera, surf video, directional wave buoy, meteorology tower, ADCP, etc. The RAP thought this could be a good component of the Ecosystem Monitoring Program.
- Plans are still up in the air regarding future use of the old sewage tank facilities.

#### **DISCUSSION**

##### **Proposed no-take park at Pt. Pinos (Chris Harrold/Steve Webster)**

- Local retired teacher feels tide pools at Pt. Pinos have been decimated by human impact and came up with a plan, including signs, research to compare to other places, and no collecting (including scientific, which would be a change in CDFG regulations).
- He had lots of support (Sierra Club and others) but no hard, quantitative data.
- Pacific Grove City Council meeting: ~ 10 scientists spoke about his plan: no doubt intertidal systems change, but there are no data to support human induced damage, plus considerations should also include predation by sea otters, global warming trends, etc. City Council did not limit scientific collecting or restrict access to school groups but supported increased education and signs.
- Education proposed was to use groups like Bay Net and Sanctuary Stewards, with quality control, to monitor specific areas (using John Pearse's approach) and educate the public via signs, internet programs like SEAWEB, etc.

##### **Sanctuary Currents (Andrew De Vogelaere)**

- This event was reviewed and the RAP came up with following suggestions:
  - 1. Keep theme general to attract as many people as possible
  - 2. Retain poster session and general talks on research for public
  - 3. Next year's theme suggestion: Dynamics of sanctuary habitats, populations, and communities: human and natural (theme of hypothesis testing and critical thinking)
  - 4. Perhaps include updates of research at different institutions
  - 5. Consider having a chair or co-chair system, changing each year
  - 6. Promote this as a good opportunity for scientists to share results with the public
  - 7. Regional meetings of scientists to talk about research themes and opportunities were discussed but would be more appropriate for MBCORC to organize and do every few years.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **Undersea cable projects (Scott Kathey)**

- Three proposed cable projects for communications (fiber optics) are before the MBNMS for permits.
- EIS will be done for at least one of these.
- Questions about seafloor disturbance, removal after use, impact on benthic fauna and fishing etc. were discussed.
- EIS research will potentially provide useful information on MBNMS resources

### **NMS budget (Steve Shimek)**

- National budget is \$14.2 M for all Sanctuaries; California sanctuary areas are 49% but only 15% of the budget.
- Shimek is working with representatives and citizens to get more financial support for California programs.

### **Science Plan for the National Marine Sanctuary System (Andrew DeVogelaere)**

- RAP comments on NMS Science Plan have been forwarded to Steve Gittings.

### **Big Sur sediment budget (Andrew DeVogelaere)**

- CalTrans will be funding a sediment budget study.

### **MBCORC meeting summary (Gregor Cailliet/Andrew DeVogelaere)**

- At last MBCORC meeting, institutional collaborative project centering around marine ecosystem and health monitoring was chosen as a topic, using GIS as an information generation tool.

### **Sustainable Seas Expedition (Andrew DeVogelaere)**

- To track the SSE in the MBNMS, see web site (<http://sustainableseas.noaa.gov/missions/monterey1/monterey1.html>)

### **Ecosystem Monitoring Program (Andrew DeVogelaere)**

- Advisory group has met to discuss this program and how the new Research Fellow position will be used to facilitate it.

### **New MBNMS Map (Aaron King)**

- MBNMS education staff and Sanctuary Foundation are completing a new map using new bathymetry information from USGS, MBARI and MLML and a donation from Duke Energy Power Services.